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Welcome Aboard



*Naval Diving and Salvage
Training Center*

Panama City, Florida

About NDSTC

Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) is a unique training command, which serves as the center of US Navy Diving. Located in Panama City, Florida, NDSTC provides both a controlled dive environment and direct access to open water diving in St. Andrews Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. NDSTC trains all military divers with the exception of SEALs and Special Forces. This includes Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and all Marine Corps combatant divers. NDSTC also provides training for a limited number of law enforcement and government agencies. It is generally regarded as the most extensive facility of its type in the world.

Dive School Staff

16 Officers

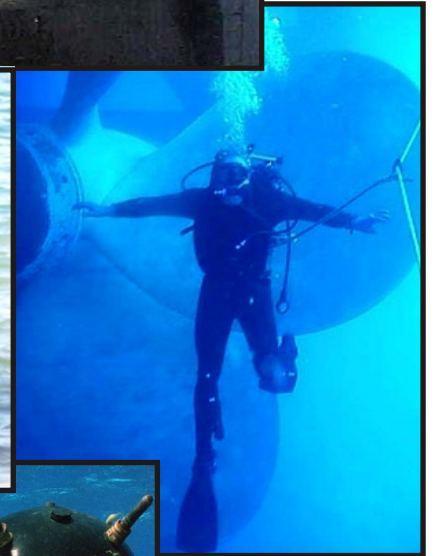
196 Enlisted

15 Civilians

Student Population

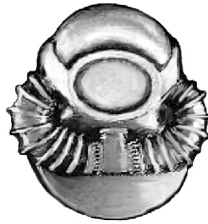
Approx 250-350

Annual throughput approx 1300





Dive Training



The training department is divided into two divisions; fleet and specialized. Fleet training prepares divers for tasks such as underwater ship repair, salvage, and construction. Divers are trained in SCUBA and surface-supplied diving rigs. Courses range from 5 weeks (basic SCUBA) to 6 months (2nd class diver, Seabee diver, Army diver). Training for Diving Medical Officers (DMO) and Diving Medical Technicians (DMT) is also part of fleet training.

Specialized diving division trains divers for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Marine Combatant Diver (MCD). The MCD course is also part of the Navy's Amphibious Recon Corpsman (ARC) training

Not all courses are for new divers. Many divers return for advanced training to become First Class Divers, Saturation divers, or to qualify in mixed-gas (HeO₂) diving. Evaluations to become a Navy or Army Master Diver are also conducted here.

In all, there are 22 different courses of instruction at NDSTC.

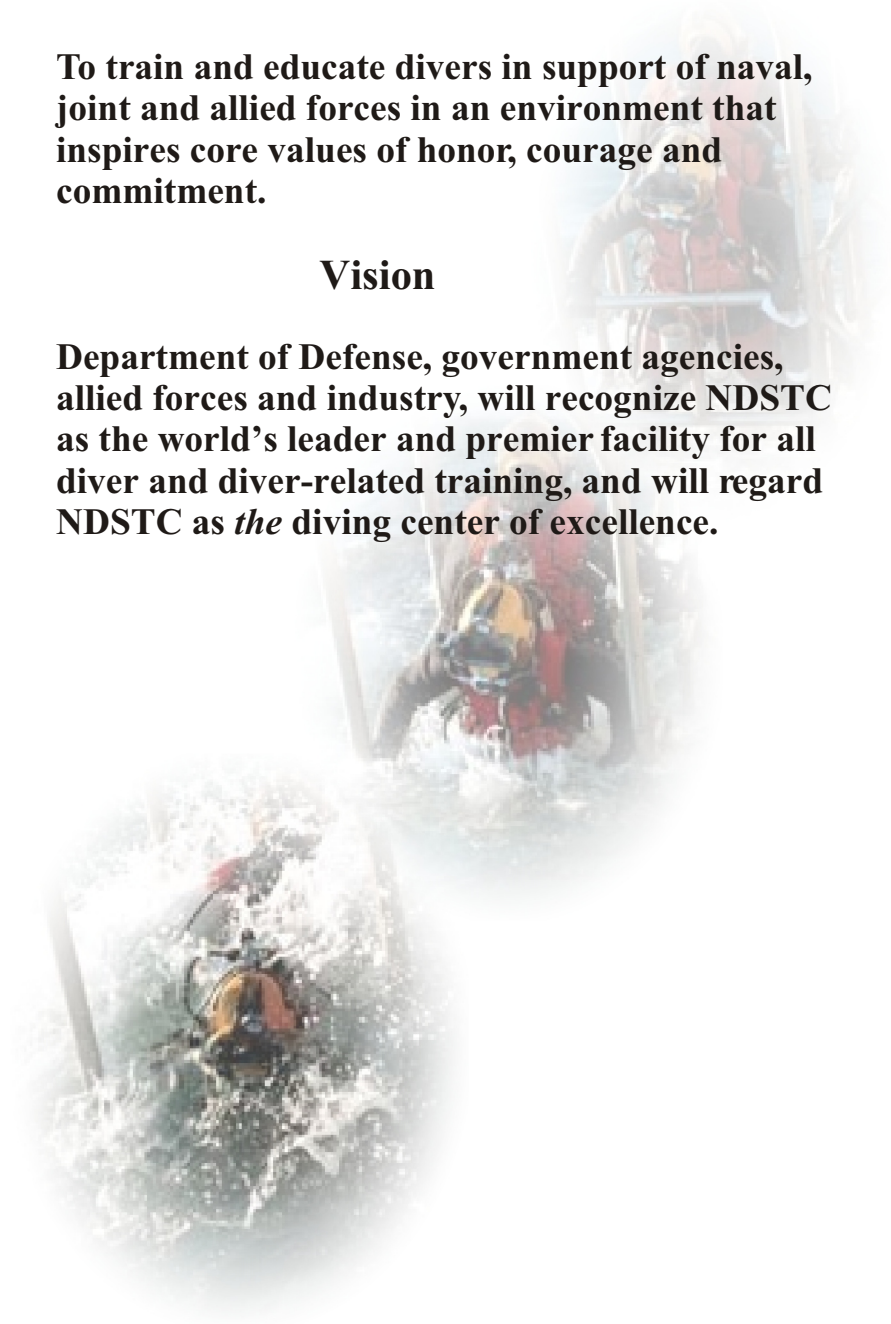


Mission

To train and educate divers in support of naval, joint and allied forces in an environment that inspires core values of honor, courage and commitment.

Vision

Department of Defense, government agencies, allied forces and industry, will recognize NDSTC as the world's leader and premier facility for all diver and diver-related training, and will regard NDSTC as *the* diving center of excellence.



Facilities

The Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center is a large facility with 10 buildings that provide 155,000 sq. ft. of space in an area of 4.2 acres. Training facilities include a large, 280,000 gallon pool that is 33 yards long and 12ft deep.

The Buddy Breathing Ascent Tower (BBAT) provides a 40 ft water column to practice buddy breathing techniques and other evolutions that require a controlled deep-water facility.

NDSTC has 2 purpose-built Yard Diving Tenders (YDT) for at-sea dive training. These 131 ft vessels are capable of supporting surface-supplied air and mixed-gas dives, and

they each have a recompression chamber and a classroom.

The pier-side support building has five bays, each of which can support surface supplied diving. In the



main building are 3 dive tanks in which divers can learn underwater cutting, welding, and use of hydraulic tools. The 3 Pressure Vessel Assemblies (PVA) allow for deep qualification dives in a wet or dry environment, and are also used for medical training and actual recompression treatments of diver casualties. NDSTC has a total of 8 recompression chambers. For salvage training, there is a vessel with numerous holes and hull penetrations. This vessel is sunk in the bayou, and salvage classes learn to raise it in a hands-on harbor clearance type of operation.

History

In 1882, the Navy established a diving school in Newport, Rhode Island under the supervision of Chief Gunner's Mate Jacob Anderson. Training in simple diving had been part of the course at the Gunnery School for some time, since gunner's mates were assigned as ships' divers. However, this two-week course was the first specifically for diver training. The school trained to 60 feet of seawater (fsw) to recover exercise torpedoes. It was closed at the outbreak of World War I, as all available divers were needed in the fleet.



In 1927, driven by a need for divers, the Navy School of Diving & Salvage (NSDS) was reestablished at the Washington Navy Yard. The curriculum included training with hand and power tools, as well as underwater burning with oxygen-hydrogen and oxygen-arc torches. Divers were rated as first or second-class depending on their demonstrated proficiency with tools.

In 1942 an additional school, the Naval Training School (Salvage), was established in New York. This was to take advantage of the training value in salvaging the Normandy, capsized at NY City's Pier 88 as a result of fire-fighting efforts. The school was moved to Bayonne, NJ in 1946 and closed in 1972.

In 1980 the Washington Navy Yard facility was closed when the new Naval Diving & Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) was completed.